

MILLSAPS --- CHALLENGE

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES **Summer 2015**

Purpose and Goals

CHALLENGE is a pre-orientation program for incoming, first-year Millsaps undergraduate students. Millsaps College is a community of scholars where interaction with persons of diverse perspectives and where academic and service experiences often challenge assumptions of new students. CHALLENGE is an opportunity for our new students to equip themselves for rigorous testing of their assumptions, to learn how to reflect on and assess their own commitments, and to transform their beliefs into community and civic engagement that benefit the community.

The goals for participants of CHALLENGE include:

- Introducing students to public policy and civic issues in Mississippi, the ways Millsaps might facilitate conversation for seeking solutions, and how those issues are manifest in community needs and actions.
- Teaching students about the Jackson community, reviewing Millsaps' historic relationship with Jackson, and how students may be engaged and partner with members of the community for the betterment of Jackson.
- Creating opportunities for students to reflect on their didactic and practical experiences so that they begin to develop means of integrating challenging ideas and concepts into their worldview.
- Increasing student retention and student satisfaction with Millsaps College by creating familiarity with the Millsaps campus and fostering relationships between new and returning CHALLENGE students.

Primary Activities

Students will reside at the Millsaps campus for the week, learning about the rhythm of life on a college campus. In order to learn about Jackson and the relationship of Millsaps with Jackson, the group will travel throughout the city to meet with civic leaders and social entrepreneurs seeking to address issues relevant to Jackson and Mississippi including race relations, affordable housing, medical access, and educational equity. In addition to this public policy perspective, the group will work on community engagement projects that seek to address these issues at a more immediate, concrete, and grassroots level. Shared mealtimes and guided discussions will provide the chance to reflect individually and in the group.

Secondary Activities

Students will have the opportunity to get to know their classmates and upperclass students serving as CHALLENGE leaders. Activities to this end include social activities and games organized by CHALLENGE leaders as well as informal social time at meals and in the residence hall. Students may also accomplish some tasks related to academic advising and registration for classes.

MILLSAPS CHALLENGE

SCHEDULE Summer 2015

Sunday

5:00-6:45pm	Check-in
7:00-7:15pm	Introductions
7:15-7:30pm	Expectations
7:30-9:30pm	Icebreakers and Monuments Scavenger Hunt

Monday – Context

7:15-7:30am	Headlines
7:30-8:30am	Breakfast
8:30-11:45am	Service
12:00-1:00pm	Lunch on campus
1:00-1:30pm	This Is Challenge (Chris Donald)
1:30-2:00pm	Academic Advising with Melissa Lea
2:00-2:45pm	Talk on Jackson Context (Kenneth Townsend, Assistant Professor of Political Science)
3:00-4:30pm	Visit Smith-Robertson African-American Heritage Center
4:45-5:30pm	Reflection groups
6:00-7:00pm	Dinner on campus
8:15-9:00pm	Real-Life Scavenger Hunt (Campus and City)
9:00-11:00pm	Free time/bed

Tuesday – Affordable Housing Programs

7:15-7:30am	Headlines
7:30-8:15am	Breakfast
8:30-11:45am	Service
12:00-12:45pm	Lunch on campus
1:00-1:45pm	Talk on Affordable Housing Programs (Whitney Grant, Director of Housing and Community Development, Midtown Partners, 601-826-9993)
2:00-3:30pm	COFO Civil Rights Education Center at Jackson State University (Dr. Rico Chapman 601-979-2490)
3:45-4:45pm	Hanging out at the Rez
4:45-5:30pm	Reflection groups at the Rez
6:00-7:00pm	Dinner on campus
8:00-9:00pm	Basketball in the HAC
9:00-11:00pm	Free time/bed

Wednesday – Educational Equity

7:15-7:30am	Headlines
7:30-8:15am	Breakfast
8:30-11:45am	Service
12:00-12:45pm	Lunch on campus
1:00-1:45pm	Talk on Educational Equity (Beverly Brahan, Assistant Executive Director, Mississippi Association of Educators)
2:15-2:45pm	Visit to Medgar Evers House (Minnie White Watson, Tougaloo College, 601-278-5975)
3:00-4:30pm	Tour of Tougaloo College (Linda Daniels, Associate VP Enrollment, Tougaloo College, 601-977-4462)
4:45-5:30pm	Reflection groups
6:00-7:00pm	Dinner on campus
7:30-9:00pm	Movie on the Green
9:00-11:00pm	Free time/bed

Thursday – Medical Access

7:15-7:30am	Headlines
7:30-8:15am	Breakfast
8:30-11:45am	Service
12:00-12:30pm	Lunch on campus
1:00-1:30pm	Talk on Medical Access (Victoria Walker, Office of Health Disparities, Mississippi State Department of Health)
1:30-4:00pm	Class Registration
4:15-5:30pm	Reflection groups and final evaluations
6:15-9:00pm	Dinner Out
9:00-11:00pm	Free time/movie/bed

Friday – See You Later

8:00am-12:00pm	Breakfast, check-out, and clean up
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